

ACE student awards, p.16



Sports, pp.12, 13, & 15

City Council Approves Budget, Hears Closed Session, Personnel Questions

by Michael Zeliff

Greenbelt City Council met on June 3, with two primary issues raised during Petitions and Requests. One was council's previous decision to grant Assistant City Manager Tim George a bonus for his outstanding service performed as interim city manager during Covid and until council chose Josué Salmerón to assume the position permanently. Whereas Mayor Emmett Jordan, advised by the city's attorney, felt that council had the authority to approve the bonus in closed session, Councilmember Rodney Roberts and resident Bill Orleans argued that the city charter requires all decisions about city employee compensation be made in open sessions. In addition, resident Mary Johnson, Greenbelt's retired director of human resources, complained that she has repeatedly sought information since March 22 about the decision to eliminate a position on the city

manager's staff that will result in this employee's termination as of the start of the new fiscal year on July 1. Jordan said this is a personnel and legal matter, while Johnson argued it was a procedural matter and said it became a legal matter as of two weeks ago. Council previously said they would respond to Johnson's requests but were advised they cannot comment any further than the public comments already made. Salmerón will send Johnson a letter documenting what they've been able to say publicly.

Budget Approved

Next, after nine earlier open worksessions, council voted 6-1, with Councilmember Rodney Roberts opposed, to approve the city's budget of over \$43 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025. It did so after approving the budgets for nine individual departments and

See **COUNCIL**, page 12

Career Firefighters Pulled; Response Time Will Double

by Randy Chow and Anna Bedford-Dillow

Prince George's County plans to remove career fire and rescue personnel from Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights, Bowie and Bunker Hill, starting on June 30.

Impact

Currently, Greenbelt has 24 career firefighters working shifts Monday through Friday and "there's no way to fill the gap" with volunteers, of which Greenbelt currently has 15 available, said City Manager Josué Salmerón to the News Review. Among the available volunteers most have full-time jobs and are not available around the clock. "There will be an inadequate fire and EMS service provided to [the people of Greenbelt]," said Thomas Ray, chief of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, speaking about the decision to cut paid staff during a city council worksession on Wednesday, June 5.



PHOTO BY SANDY RODGERS

The county plans to pull all career staff from Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department by June 30.

Though Ray said the volunteers will do their best, there will not be enough volunteers to fill the staffing gap in firefighters and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). With this change, there's "a potential" for no fire and EMS services on Monday through Fri-

day from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Greenbelt, Ray told council at the worksession.

After the removal, Greenbelt will need to rely on surrounding fire and rescue companies to

See **FIREFIGHTERS**, page 10

New English Learners Excel In DKFI's ESOL Program

by Erica Johns

Excited and proud students, parents, faculty and staff gathered at Dora Kennedy French Immersion School (DKFI) on Friday, June 7 to celebrate eight students exiting the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program and receiving Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) ESOL medals, and four students showing substantial ESOL growth. The 2023-2024 program had 22 students, of whom eight graduates is a 34 percent graduation rate, the highest ever at DKFI, and almost five times the countywide seven percent rate. The graduation percentage is even more remarkable since DKFI ESOL students do their schoolwork in French while learning English. Students whose home language is not French function in at least three languages, such as Spanish, French and English. One trilingual fourth grader graduated with the highest possible test score of 6.0.

Instruction and testing

Students attend one-on-one instruction with DKFI ESOL teacher Dr. Sonia O'Connell. Most DKFI ESOL students began



PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS

Students of the Dora Kennedy French Immersion ESOL program

in kindergarten, when the DKFI lottery admits most students. This means some of today's ESOL students began French immersion school and ESOL on Zoom in the pandemic. Dr. O, as everyone calls her, said her role is to encourage students to believe they can learn English, and that she will show them how.

States annually test students' English proficiency per federal requirements. Maryland (and 42 other states, territories and Washington, D.C.) tests ESOL students with the ACCESS test from the Wisconsin-based WIDA consortium for multilingual learners. ACCESS tests listening, reading, writing and speaking skills, with difficulty increasing by grade. Some skills are tested with pencil and paper and some online, with

all testing online from fourth grade forward. DKFI tested in early 2024. WIDA did the scoring and reported results in May, with eight students scoring the 4.5 or better (of 6.0) needed to exit ESOL.

Student Highlights

Students honored Friday come from countries and family backgrounds including Cameroon, France, Guatemala, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo, with home languages including Arabic, French, Spanish and local languages.

See **DKFI ESOL**, page 6

What Goes On

Monday, June 17

7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building

Wednesday, June 19

Juneteenth Holiday, City Offices Closed

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltnmd.gov for more information.

Police Requests for Equipment Dominate City Council Meeting

by Carol Griffith

In its meeting on May 29, the Greenbelt City Council made two proclamations and conducted the last public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2025 proposed budget, but a large part of the meeting concerned awarding purchases, with two for the Greenbelt Police Department creating much discussion by council.

The purchase of two trucks for Public Works with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding was approved. Public Works requested to replace a 1993 roll-back (tow truck) for a cost of \$143,613 and a refuse compactor (trash truck) for \$312,405. In response to council's questions about environmental sensitivity, Public Works' Assistant Director for Parks Brian Townsend ex-

plained that he had investigated electric trucks but found them to be unreliable and expensive and that the infrastructure was not yet in place for their use. Councilmembers Kristen Weaver and Jenni Pompei asked about an EPA grant for such a purchase. Assistant City Manager Timothy George responded that he had investigated the grant but that a condition of the grant required the purchase of three trucks. Weaver asked if it would be possible to partner with another city to make use of the grant; George said he would look into the possibility.

Authorization for the city manager to execute a contract

See **POLICE**, page 10



PHOTO BY LOIS ROSADO

Esperanza Toledo and Wendy Diaz share Guatemalan culture at Greenbelt Middle School's International Day. See story, page 7.

Letters to the Editor

Need Hand Rail

My fall onto concrete was because no hand rail had been installed in my apartment building as I had asked of Pinnacle, the building's management company. I have since contacted many persons who I thought could help install a hand rail, but there has been no installation. I am still waiting.

Bill Norwood



Bill Norwood protests for 3.5 hours on Saturday, June 8.

PHOTO COURTESY BILL NORWOOD

Café Response To Story and Letter

Last week's article (New Deal Café Negotiations With New Vendor Startle Co-op) and the Letter to the Editor (p. 2), implied that the New Deal Café board revealed its search for a new vendor at our June 2 annual membership meeting. To correct the record, the search process began long before and we're surprised by those who were "startled."

The Co-op was informed January 2024 that we were still exploring the possibility of a new vendor. We were surviving, barely, with the dwindling funds from our original Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan, which came due to the Covid pandemic, donations from our members, and the 4 percent food and beverage surcharge. Since the Co-op had lost some \$180,000 because of the Covid pandemic, the Co-op's vendor and its board encouraged us to continue.

In spring of 2023, the board did what we thought was in the best interest of the Café and

See **LETTERS**, page 9

Drop Us a Line!
Electronically, that is.
editor@greenbelt
newsreview.com



Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
JUNE 14th - 20th

Tuesday (R) (CC) (DVS)
(2024) (111 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:15 PM, 8:00 PM

Sun. 2:15 PM (OC), 5:00 PM
Tues. 8:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM

Mon. 2:15 PM, 5:15 PM

Wed. 8:00 PM

Thurs. 8:15 PM

Kidnapped: The Abduction
of Edgardo Mortara (NR)

(2024) (135 mins)

Italian w/ English subtitles

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 5:15 PM

Mon. 2:00 PM

Wed. 7:45 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 7:45 PM

Sun. 2:00 PM

Tues. 5:15 PM

Thurs. 5:00 PM

Babes (R) (CC) (DVS)
(2024) (104 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 8:15 PM

Mon. 5:00 PM (OC)

Wed. 5:15 PM

Thurs. 5:15 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:00 PM

Sun. 5:15 PM

Tues. 8:15 PM

Storytime on Screen - Free!

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 10:30 AM -11:15 AM

Encanto (PG) (2021)
(102 mins) - Free!

School's Out | Sponsored by
McCarl Dental Group

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 1:00 PM

Napoleon Dynamite (PG)
(2004) (86 mins)

Cult Classic

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 8:00 PM

Juneteenth

June 19



Celebrate Freedom!



Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Tuesday

A mother (Julia Louis-Dreyfus, in a moving performance) and her teenage daughter (Lola Petticrew) must confront Death when it arrives in the form of an astonishing talking bird. From debut filmmaker Daina O. Pusić, Tuesday is a heart-rending fairy tale about the echoes of loss and finding resilience in the unexpected. Said New York Times critic Jeannette Catsoulis, "In this fantastical first feature from the Croatian filmmaker Daina O. Pusic, striking special effects and a richly textured sound design lend a cosmic chill to a simple story of maternal grief."

Kidnapped: The Abduction of Edgardo Mortara

In 1858, in the Jewish quarter of Bologna, the Pope's soldiers burst into the home of the Mortara family. By order of the cardinal, they have come to take Edgardo, their 7-year-old son. The child had been secretly baptized by his nurse as a baby and the papal law is unquestionable: he must receive a Catholic education. Edgardo's parents, distraught, will do anything to get their son back. Supported by public opinion and the international Jewish community, the Mortaras' struggle quickly takes a political dimension. But the Church and the Pope will not agree to return the child, in a bid to consolidate an increasingly wavering power.

Babes

Inseparable childhood friends Eden (Ilana Glazer) and Dawn (Michelle Buteau), who grew up together in NYC, are now firmly in different phases of adulthood. When carefree and single Eden decides to have a baby on her own after a one-night stand, their friendship faces its greatest challenge. Directed by Pamela Adlon, writer, director and star of the acclaimed FX comedy hit Better Things, the film delves into the complexities of female friendship with a blend of laughter, tears and labor pains. Said critic Courtney Small of Cinema Axis, "A hilarious and resonating work, Adlon crafts one of the summer's must-see comedies."

Encanto

In this animated film, the Madrigals are an extraordinary family who live hidden in the mountains of Colombia in a charmed place called the Encanto. The magic of the Encanto has blessed every child in the family with a unique gift – every child except Mirabel. However, she soon may be the Madrigals' last hope when she discovers that the magic surrounding the Encanto is now in danger.

Napoleon Dynamite

In small-town Preston, Idaho, awkward teen Napoleon Dynamite (Jon Heder) has trouble fitting in. After his grandmother is injured in an accident, his life is made even worse when his strangely nostalgic uncle, Rico (Jon Gries), shows up to keep an eye on him. With no safe haven at home or at school, Napoleon befriends the new kid, Pedro (Efren Ramirez), a morose Hispanic boy who speaks little English. Together the two launch a campaign to run for class president.

Community Events

Kiddos Read, Play
At SHL Rec Center

On Friday, June 14 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) with the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System will present engaging, lively stories and activities for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature. After the readings, the children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children’s books and free healthy nutritious snacks. Come, and spread the word to friends and families.

Los Niños Leen y Juegan
El viernes 14 de junio a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo de Springhill Lake, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) con el Sistema de Bibliotecas Conmemorativas del Condado de Prince George’s presentarán interesantes historias y actividades divertidas para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores, para ayudar a desarrollar las habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta a los niños como forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse y jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Habrán libros infantiles gratis y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos. Como dijo un padre al irse, “Fue muy bueno!” Unete a nosotros, y corra la voz a amigos y familiares.

Summer Prince George’s
At the Library

The Washington Nationals and the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System are partnering to present Summer Prince George’s (SPG), a program for all ages that runs through August 15. More than a traditional summer reading program, SPG encourages children, teens and adults to read 30 minutes each day, attend Library programs, explore the Library’s physical collection of materials as well as a wide range of streaming movies and music in the 85+ online Library resources and participate in interactive social media challenges. Register for the SPG challenge at pgcmls.info/summer and log reading, event attendance and online resource activities to earn badges and prizes: vouchers for Washington Nationals tickets and grand prizes. Pick up an SPG paper card to track activities or register for the challenge on PGCMLS’ Beanstack app.

Creative Arts
Student Awards

The Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee, in collaboration with the Prince George’s Lynching Memorial Project, will host the Social Justice and Creative Arts Student Awards ceremony in recognition of June-teenth in Greenbelt, on Saturday, June 15 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, Room 201.
The public is invited to join in celebrating talented high school youth from throughout Prince George’s County high schools. For additional information email blackhistryandculturegb@gmail.com.

Shakespeare in the Park
At Greenbelt Park

“What fools these mortals be!” cries Puck. See just how foolish they are as Prince George’s Shakespeare in the Parks brings the delightful comedy A Midsummer Night’s Dream to Greenbelt Park on Thursday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m.
Set in an enchanted forest near the fictional town of Athens, Md., this free 90-minute play explores themes of love, illusion and the unpredictable nature of desire as it weaves together the stories of four young lovers, an amateur acting troupe and mischievous fairies.
Bring a lawn chair and a picnic and enjoy the bard under the stars, sponsored by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.
Visit pgparks.com/event_list/shakespeare-in-the-parks for more information.

Book Sale Seeks
Sale Coordinator

The Greenbelt Elementary School PTA has held its beloved Used Book Sale for more than 50 years at Greenbelt’s Labor Day Festival. This summer, the PTA is planning a paid position for someone who will help coordinate the sale; specifically, a person or organization to coordinate and recruit volunteers. The Book Sale is the only PTA fundraiser for the school year and has allowed the purchase of a variety of things that support students and teachers, including art and music supplies, field trips and teacher appreciation gifts. It is also a cherished community event that makes high quality books available at an affordable price for the broader community. The coordinator need not be affiliated with Greenbelt Elementary School to apply for this position. Contact: booksalegespta@gmail.com.

Ceramics Workshop:
Make a Serving Dish



PHOTO BY NADETTE BOUGHTON

Ceramic mono-printed plate by Nadette Boughton

On Tuesdays, June 18 and 25, learn how to create beautiful, printed serving dishes with artist Nadette Boughton in a two-part workshop. No drawing or ceramics experience needed; beginners and all levels are welcome, ages 16 and up. Students will roll slabs, use molds to create a platter or serving tray and learn mono-printing techniques to decorate their piece.
This workshop will take place in Room 304 of the Community Center. Advance registration is required, and fees apply. The Summer Activity Guide and registration instructions are available at bit.ly/42UVwyD.
City of Greenbelt arts programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council. For more information, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts.

Volunteers Needed

The Greenbelt MakerSpace seeks volunteers to staff the tool library and organize classes and other events. People are asking for more open hours. Help is needed for the tool library to expand. Sign up for shifts at signup.com/go/UNkLnqk or email us at staff@make125.org if interested in other times or jobs.
The Greenbelt MakerSpace is down the outside stairs on the west side of the Granite Building at 115 Centerway.

Emerald City Pride
Festival, Parade

Saturday, June 15, 11 a.m. Parade Meetup at Spellman Overpass on Gardenway led by Greenbelt Honk Situation!
Noon to 3 p.m., Festival at Roosevelt Center with live DJ, Drag Queen and King performances, informational resource tables, free on-site STI testing
8 p.m. Drag Bingo with D’Manda Martini at Beltway Plaza; must be 21+

Jewelry Sale Returns
At Mishkan Torah

After an interruption by Covid, Mishkan Torah is again holding its Jewelry Sale. It will take place on Sunday, June 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with handbags and scarves, as well as many new items. Mishkan Torah is located at 10 Ridge Road.

Rummage Sale
At St. Hugh’s

On Saturday and Sunday, June 22 and 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Hugh of Grenoble Church will hold a rummage sale, with furniture, jewelry, linens, books, toys and more on offer.
Lunch and some homemade baked goods will be available. Admission is free.

No June Meeting
For Writers Group

The June 21 meeting of the Greenbelt Writers Group has been canceled. The next meeting will be held on July 19 at 7 p.m. in the Community Center.

Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join them online every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The club provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone interested in improving their public speaking and leadership skills. Learn more at greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org.

MAD Theater Presents
A Spring Variety Show

Goddard Space Flight Center’s Music and Drama Club (MAD) will present a spring show entitled Auditions, Affairs and Aliens, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 14 and Saturday, June 15 at the Goddard Visitor Center, 9432 Greenbelt Road. The show, which is the result of MAD’s spring workshops for aspiring singers, actors, directors and playwrights, will consist of short scenes from a variety of plays and songs from musicals.
For more information and tickets, visit madtheater.org.

Chess Club Meets
Tuesdays June 18, 25



PHOTO BY EFFIE LEVNER

Chess club members play at the Youth Center on Tuesday, May 21.

Adults and youth of all skill levels are invited to play chess on the second, third and fourth Tuesdays of the month at the Greenbelt Youth Center, from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m., June 18 and 25. Those who can should bring a chess set. For more information, contact Effie at greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

Golden Age Club

The Greenbelt Golden Age Club meets every Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the Community Center, Room 201. Guests and prospective members are always welcome.
There will be a June birthday celebration on June 19 and BINGO on June 26.

More Community Events
throughout the paper.

Greenbelt Access Television
June 15, Sat - June 21, Fri
Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)
Streaming on www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station
Featured Performance (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)
Utopia Film Festival Selections (2023)
This is a selection of standout narrative and documentary short films from last year's Utopia Film Festival.
Interested in submitting for this year? Visit UtopiaFilmFestival.org for more information!

New This Month
What's New at Greenbelt Cinema?
Tune in to see what Greenbelt Cinema has in store for us for the week of June 14th through June 20th!

All this and more on the GATE channel this week! Check greenbeltaccessstv.org for the full broadcast schedule, and visit Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube for new video productions.

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
Mon/Wed/Th 8am-9pm; Tues 8am-9:30pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – 10pm;
Sunday 9am – 9pm, UNLESS NOTED.

TH 6/13	FRI 6/14	SAT 6/15	SUN 6/16	
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm The Seth Kibel Quartet 7-9pm High energy klezmer	The Anthony “Swamp Dog” Clark Band 7-10pm Blues Harmonica with charisma!	GREENBELT PRIDE FESTIVAL, 12-3p POETRY OPEN MIC, 1-3p American Touristor 7-10pm Soul & Surf instrumentals	Fez Tones Hafila 6-8pm Middle Eastern music and dance. Penultimate performance! Reserve now!	
MON 6/17	TUES 6/18	WED 6/19	TH 6/20	SPECIALS!
REEL AND MEAL AT THE NEW DEAL 7-9pm “Israelism” VISIT OUR WEB SITE	NDC Open Mic w/ Joey Campfire 7-9:30pm Sign ups at 6:30pm	PUB QUIZ 7-9pm Bring your own team or form one!	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm DRAG BINGO w/ D’Manda Martini 7-9pm Bingo with prizes!	HAPPY HOUR 4-7pm \$1 OFF BEER AND WINE WINE WEDNESDAY \$1 OFF PER GLASS \$5 OFF A BOTTLE

Join NDC! Go to NewDealCafe(dot)com, click on “ABOUT”, then “BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW.”
FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.
THE NDC NEEDS YOUR VOLUNTEER TIME ON COMMITTEES.
Contact: jbelltower@yahoo.com. We promise: It won’t hurt!

Obituaries

Rachel Mertz



Rachel Mertz

Rachel Mertz, of Greenbelt, died peacefully at the age of 101 on June 8, 2024, surrounded by her family. She was born on July 23, 1922, in Whiteville, N.C., to Martin and Annie Schulken. Rachel loved to share childhood stories of her mother's florist shop and adventures with her cousin and best friend Libby. She graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1943. Upon graduating, Rachel came to Washington, D.C. to work for the war effort in a decoding office. She was then employed at Walter Reed Hospital and later the Library of Congress.

She was married to Herbert Mertz II for 56 years, until his death in 2004. Her family settled down in Bethesda, with two children born in the early 1950s. Rachel went on to get a master's degree at Catholic University and worked as a Montgomery County school librarian for 20 years before retiring to Florida in 1988 where she and Herbert went out dancing every weekend.

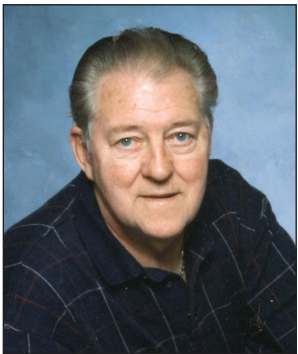
While in Florida, Rachel was an active volunteer in her church and community, always willing to lend a helping hand. Her family members recall her generosity and have fond memories of the times she took them to Disney World and the Florida Keys. Rachel was an avid traveler and visited places including Russia,

Egypt, Turkey, Greece and Alaska well into her 80s. In 2017, she moved to Greenbelt to live with her daughter and son-in-law. Affectionately known as "Grandma Rachel", she delighted in spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, many of whom live in Greenbelt. She was an active member of Mowatt United Methodist Church and the Golden Age Club. Rachel also frequented Maria's Beauty Salon along with other local establishments. She was a beloved neighbor to those at 1 Northway. Rachel loved to greet people as she sat outside on a bench near her home. She will be missed by many, and her vivacious spirit will never be forgotten by those who knew her.

She is survived by her children, Marguerite Baker (Tom) and Herbert Mertz III (Fran); grandchildren Lara Baker, Johanna Moore (Nick), Rosanne Douglas (Sean) and Ian Mertz; and great-grandchildren Joshua Ryan; Kaleb, Kira, Mia and Elizabeth Moore; and Persephone and Castor Douglas.

A memorial service will be held at the Mowatt United Methodist Church on Saturday, June 22 at 3 p.m.

George Marshall, Sr.



George (Bill) Marshall

George William "Bill" Marshall, Sr., known affectionately as Pop, died on May 20 in Cookeville, Tenn., at the age of 90. He was born on May 12, 1934, in Washington, D.C.

Bill moved his family to Greenbelt in 1963 and lived here for almost 40 years. He also worked for GHI for 15 years. He retired to Tennessee with his wife Nancy to a home on a river.

Bill was a cherished father to George Marshall, Jr. (Carol) and Deborah Scott (Dennis). He was a beloved grandfather to Melissa Marshall (Danielle), Kristina Jackson (Ross) and Kellie Wendte (Travis); and a proud great-grandfather to Bennett Jackson, Emma Wendte, Wells Jackson and Luke Wendte. He also held Lisa Perez and her family dear to his heart, considering her as his own daughter.

Bill was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Nancy Kitch-

en Marshall, his brother Joseph (Ray) Marshall, his daughter-in-law Glenda Marshall, his parents William Ralph Marshall and Ethel Botts Marshall and many other cherished family members.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at a later date to honor the memory of George William Marshall, Sr. He leaves behind a wonderful family legacy and will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

James "Cliff" Bordas



James Bordas

James Clifford Bordas, known as Cliff, 71, died on May 30, 2024. He was a life-long Greenbelter.

Cliff was born on September 21, 1952, at Prince George's Hospital in Cheverly. Greenbelt was

See OBITUARIES, page 8



Our condolences to the family and friends of Rachel Mertz, who died at age 101. She was an active member of Mowatt United Methodist Church and the Greenbelt Golden Age Club.

Our sympathies to the family and friends of George "Bill" Marshall who lived in Greenbelt for almost 40 years and worked for Greenbelt Homes, Inc.

Condolences also to the family and friends of James Clifford Bordas who died on May 30.

Congratulations to Kim Kash, who was ranked #5 Individual Agent by volume in the Compass Realty market.


Congratulations also to Luminis Health, whose Doctors Community Medical Center and its Anne Arundel Medical Center received the designation of LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Top Performer in the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Healthcare Equality Index. The index evaluates healthcare facilities on criteria within four central pillars: foundational policies and training in LGBTQ+ patient-centered care, LGBTQ+ patient services and support, employee benefits and policies, and patient and community engagement.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Celebration of Life For John Ward

John Ward of University Park, who died on April 26, 2024, was one of the founders of the Greenbelt Arts Center. He and his wife Beatrix Whitehall lived in Greenbelt for 24 years. A Celebration of Life in his honor will be held on Monday, June 24 at 11 a.m. at the Greenbelt Community Church, 1 Hillside Road.

"Man is, in reality, a spiritual being, and only when he lives in the spirit is he truly happy." – 'Abdu'l-Bahá



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

St. John's Episcopal Church
11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for
Worship & Sunday School
at 10:00 AM

Greenbelt Community Church
One Hillside Road

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship and Church School

We are an Open and Affirming Church

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

*Live streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)
301-474-9410

Bible Study Monday 1:30 - 3 p.m.
All are Welcome.
Led by the Reverend Evelyn Romero,
Elder of the United Methodist Church

The Bible Says...

For the Lord is righteous,
He loves righteousness;
The upright will behold His face.
Psalm 11:7

**MCF**
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
(66 Ridge Rd.)
MCFcc.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

June 16, 2024 at 3:00 pm
Family Man

Men's Group with Worship Associate Jim Flaherty

This Father's Day, the Paint Branch men's group examines the choices men make about having and raising children, or not. Men will share personal stories about having biological children, raising stepchildren in blended families, and fostering and adopting children.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT MASS

Sunday 10:00 a.m.
City Council Room
25 Crescent Rd

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
[CCGI985+owneregroups.io](https://ccgi985+owneregroups.io)

Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered
Biblical
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am
Sunday School 9:15am
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org



At the Library

Greenbelt Library hours are Mondays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Face masks are recommended for all customers over the age of 2.

All county libraries will open at 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 13. Passport acceptance service will start at 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 13. Libraries will be closed Wednesday, June 19 for the Juneteenth holiday, and will re-open on Thursday, June 20 at 10 a.m.

Pre-K Story Hour

Friday, June 14, 10:30 a.m., ages newborn to 5, at the Springhill Lake Community Center. Enjoy the wonderful world of storytelling. Friends and family welcome. *Ven y disfruta del maravilloso mundo de contar cuentos. Amigos y familiares son bienvenidos.* Hosted by Greenbelt Branch Library staff and Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK). Register at pgcmls.info/event/10653603.

Storytimes

Friday, June 14, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10630207.

Monday, June 17, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2, Register at pgcmls.info/event/10630161.

Thursday, June 20, 2:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Bring a child and enjoy stories, songs, fingerplays and more to celebrate the start of Summer Prince George's. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10731472.

Storytime on Screen

Monday, June 17, 10:30 a.m., ages 1 to 5, at the Greenbelt Cinema, 129 Centerway. Greenbelt Cinema, in partnership with PGCMLS, is offering a free program of stories, songs and a short film. This program is best suited for children ages 1 to 5 and their caregivers. No unaccompanied children or adults. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10630337.

Ride and Read

Thursday, June 20, 11 a.m., ages 16+ (adult). Get some physical activity in while at the library. Sign up for an hour ride on a stationary bike with great free apps from PGCMLS like Libby, Kanopy and Freegal to enjoy while working out. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10650548.

SPG Kick-off

Thursday, June 20, 2 p.m., all ages. Kick off Summer Prince George's at the Library. Drop by to register and enjoy other activities and prizes (while supplies last). Register at pgcmls.info/event/10630256.

STEM-tastic

Thursday, June 20, 3 p.m., ages 8 to 12. Become a scientist by conducting hands-on, fun science activities using basic scientific principles. Celebrate an influential Queer computer scientist by learning about how computers work to solve problems with Turing Tumbles. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10653678.

LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW


Visually impaired may listen for free

Call Metropolitan Washington Ear

301-681-6636

No special equipment needed





City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, June 17, 2024 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION

Call to Order
Roll Call
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Petitions and Requests
Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by *] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations

- National Pollinator Week Proclamation
- * Minutes
- Administrative Reports
- * Committee Reports

LEGISLATION

- FY2025 Budget Adoption
- An Ordinance to Make a Supplemental Appropriation in the Greenbelt West Fund for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024, in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for Additional Greenbelt West Fund Expenditures Over the Appropriated Amount
 - 1st Reading, Suspension of the Rules
 - 2nd Reading, Adoption

OTHER BUSINESS

- FY 2025 Proposed Program Open Space Projects and Overview of Program Changes
- ARPA Bus Stop Safety and Accessibility Improvements - Proposed Project List
- Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Recodification, Supplementation, and Online Code Hosting Services Contract
- Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Charter Review Contract
- Rent Stabilization Discussion
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
- * Meetings
- * Stakeholders
- * Resignation/Appointment to Advisory Board
- * Reclassifications

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

MEETINGS FOR JUNE 17 - 21

Tuesday, June 18 at 6:30 pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Approval of Agenda/Minutes, Council Liaison Updates, WMATA'S Proposed 2025 Better Bus Network, Staff Updates*

Tuesday, June 18 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES**, *On the Agenda: Review Past Meeting Minutes, Discuss Proposed Buddy Attick Master Plan*

Tuesday, June 18 at 7 pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION**, *On the Agenda: Adoption of Minutes/Agenda, Contractor Decision, Community Engagement & Education Subcommittee Proposals, Commission Ethnic Composition Survey, Other Business/Subcommittee Updates, Public Comments*

Wednesday, June 19, **NO MEETING - JUNETEENTH**

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

By Section 3-305(b)(1)(8) and (10) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Monday, June 17, 2024, immediately following the Council Meeting, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building: 1) to discuss the appointment, performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; 2) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation; and 3) To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans;

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to address personnel matters over which this public body has jurisdiction; and 2) to consult with staff about pending or potential litigation; and 3) to discuss the deployment of fire staff.

** The public may attend the Regular Council Meeting of the City Council immediately before the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Monday, June 17, 2024.*

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed on Wednesday, June 19, in observance of Juneteenth

THE GREENBELT CONNECTION WILL NOT BE OPERATING.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Week of June 17

Monday Route – No change

Tuesday Route – No change

Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday

Thursday Route – Collected Friday

There will be no appliance, odd metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, June 21.

COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education**, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board and make a difference in Greenbelt!

By dedicating your time and expertise, you will help shape the future of Greenbelt and create a community that values the voices of all its residents. Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!


Call (301) 474-8000.

FEATURED PETS SMITTEN WITH KITTENS!

Ready for Adoption? Call (301) 474-6124

We are now accepting applications for 6 kittens and their 3-year-old momma, Nessie. The litter was born about 3 months ago under a Greenbelt Middle School outbuilding. Thanks to concerned teachers, they have been safe and growing at our shelter since. They are a playful, curious and well-socialized bunch and they all have their shots and are spay/neutered. There's one black female, and the rest are male: 1 white and black, 1 grey and white, and 3 grey tabbies. Nessie has been a caring and diligent momma. She is a bit shy at first but is super friendly and cuddly once she feels safe. Would you like to welcome in sweet Nessie, and/or an adorable kitty or two?

Call (301) 474-6124 or email animalcontrol@greenbeltmd.gov



ARTFUL AFTERNOONS OUTDOOR PAINTING PARTY

Sunday, June 9, 1 - 3 pm, FREE Springhill Lake Recreation Center

Enjoy an outdoor painting party! All ages. FREE.

Details at <https://bit.ly/3UH0hsY>.

GREENBELT ARPA GRANT PROGRAMS

Applications Deadlines Extended Through August 30, 2024

To view grant programs, or to see how other ARPA programs are helping your community recover from the COVID-19 pandemic visit us at www.engagegreenbelt.org.

CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge:

- Dementia Friendly America Webinars, June.
- Emergency Diaper Distribution. Must register <https://forms.gle/fEGq7ScdrUdZgCgy9>
- Produce Distribution at the Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Road
Upcoming Dates: June 20, from 1 - 3 pm
- Produce Distribution at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Ln (*Greenbelt West Residents Only*)
Upcoming Dates: June 20, from 3 - 4:15 pm

For descriptions and information, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESPROGRAMS and see ads on this page!

FREE CARES CLASSES

Stress Surfing, Wednesdays, July 10 - 24, 11 am - 1 pm, 15 Crescent Rd
Three week program that focuses on the science of stress and stress management.

Dining with Diabetes, Wednesdays, August 7 - 28, 15 Crescent Rd
Four week program that focuses on diabetes management through nutrition.

Register with Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or email bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

NEIGHBORHOOD WALK & TALK

Greenbelt Station's Central Park

Thursday, June 20, 6:30 pm


Join us as we walk the Greenbelt Station Neighborhood.

You are invited to join us for a neighborhood walk and talk with Chief Bowers, City Manager Josué Salmerón, and members of City Council. This is a fantastic opportunity for us all to connect directly and learn more about the efforts being made to ensure the well-being of our community.

This event is designed for open dialogue, so please feel free to come out and share your thoughts and concerns. Issues that matter to you are important to us as we work towards building a safer, more united community.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.



School News

DKFI ESOL continued from page 1

Fourth grader Coumba Toure moved with her family from Paris in August 2023, missing Paris friends and family and deciding not to speak English, according to parents Aminata and Yoro Toure and Dr. O. Her parents said, “Now we see [her and kindergartener Omar] speaking and being comfortable with other kids.” Coumba said, “I didn’t talk in English, and now I talk too much.”

Fourth graders Rodayna Atlas and Boambe Kombate talked to the News Review together. Boambe: “We learn English better and we have to pass the test to prove that we’ve learned well.” Rodayna: “I was only 7 when I took the test and thought, hopefully I passed, and I passed.” Boambe: “And you have to write paragraphs [Rodayna inserted: ‘very hard’] It was kinda hard because it has to be three to five sentences, oh my, gosh, it was so hard.” Rodayna: “We both got 4.8, and when [Dr. O] said ‘Pass,’ I started to scream.”

Gratitude

Students, parents and staff treasure how Dr. O helps students succeed. Parent Aminata Toure said, “[Dr. O] tried to make [Coumba] comfortable with the move and come slowly to English.... After that she opened up to other teachers and staff.” Cecilia Perez Ramirez has had four children learn with Dr. O, saying, “I see a lot of growth in my kids. She always pushes them to do better. They say they had ‘an amazing day, she helped us read more books. She inspires us, she always tells us to read, because it’s a way to learn’.” Children and parents showed love and gratitude for Dr. O, with one parent spreading her arms wide to show how welcome Dr. O and DKFI make them feel. Principal James Spence paid tribute to the heart she put into taking DKFI ESOL scholars to the next level. He also recognized parents’ support for the ESOL and French immersion programs, noting their efforts to navigate in multiple languages.



From left, fourth grader Joseph Aguilar, who scored a perfect 6.0 in English proficiency, Principal James Spence and ESOL teacher Dr. Sonia O’Connell

Next Year

Fourth grader Joseph Aguilar’s advice to ESOL students is, “You need to take notes or find clues by using three strategies. The first is reading the title, the second is read the first sentence of each paragraph, and it’s a strategy that you highlight the important words to answer the question.” First grader Giuliana Mejia said, “You should do a great job and try to get everything right. You may know the answer or you may not, but you need to work hard and focus.” That advice will serve DKFI ESOL students well. When Dr. O’Connell warned Principal Spence not to expect similar 34 percent results next year, he agreed: “I don’t. I expect better.”

- ESOL graduates:**
- Kindergarten: Emmanuel Ajayi
 - Second grade: Jefferey Bankole
 - Third grade: Rodayna Atlas and Boambe Kombate
 - Fourth grade: Joseph Aguilar (6.0 score) and Rafael Chawo
 - Fifth grade: Adelina Lemus
 - Seventh grade: Anthony Nwobi
- Students with substantial ESOL growth since last year:**
- Kindergarten: Omar Toure, 1.8 levels
 - First grade: Giuliana Mejia, 2.4 levels
 - Fourth grade: Youssouf Damba, 1 level, and Coumba Toure, 2.8 levels

Two Roosevelt Seniors Receive Craig Memorial Scholarships

by Doug Mangum

The David Craig Memorial Scholarship Fund presented awards this year to Ayat Hasan and Sophia Becraft.

Hasan, who will be attending Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore this fall, received the full scholarship of \$12,000 (\$3,000 per year for four years). Becraft received a partial scholarship of \$3,000 and is heading to Durham, N.C., this fall to attend Duke University.

They both were outstanding applicants as part of a tremendous group of students from Eleanor Roosevelt High School’s (ERHS) 2024 class.

Hasan made the most of his time at ERHS, becoming an organizer and leader for the Math Club, the Construction Club and the Civics Society Club. He was Student Government Association treasurer (overseeing a \$27,000 budget) and Muslim Student Association treasurer.

Hasan came to this country in the third grade and has been working hard honing his skills and character through participation in school organizations and karate lessons, along with a myriad of volunteer opportunities.

Hasan takes pride in all these paths he has taken to become the best version of himself. He dreams big, as stated on one of his letters of recommendation. “He has helped pioneer ideas that will long be his and his classmates’ legacy,” said one letter. One example of his volunteer efforts was the revitalization of the victory garden.

Above all, Hasan serves. He served his God and his community by volunteering at Luminis Health, Doctors Community Hospital, stating that, “No one should undergo medical treatment alone.”

Becraft participated in golf, gymnastics and lacrosse. She was the lacrosse team captain her junior and senior year. Her final game her senior year as a



From left, scholarship winner Sophia Becraft poses with Doug Mangum.

Scholarship winner Ayat Hasan



Roosevelt Raider was in the state lacrosse playoffs. Becraft founded the Astronomy Club and was its treasurer. She was the ambassador to the Youth North County Program, a liaison to the County Executive Leadership Institute and a board member with LPGA Girls Golf as well as a member of the Alsobrooks Youth Leadership Institute. Becraft competed on a community league gymnastic team, making it to the Junior Olympics.

Becraft attends the Wallace Presbyterian Church of College Park, where she sings, leads worship and helps with Vacation Bible School and youth group ministries. She organized a men-

tal health booth aiming to improve relations between police and residents and helped a friend organize and implement a blood drive through the American Red Cross.

Becraft was also a symposium presenter for the University of Maryland Department of Hearing and Speech Sciences in its language development and perception lab. She designed and conducted a study on how background noise affects children’s auditory comprehension. She is hoping her findings will be applied to create better learning environments as she seeks to make the world a better place.

The Greenbelt Arts Center presents

FIVEPLAY

written by Erica Smith / directed by Rocky Nunzio

FINAL WEEKEND!

June 14 & 15

Friday and Saturday at 8pm

Ticket pricing:

[\$24 General Admission]

[\$22 Senior/Military] [\$12 Child/Student]

SPECIAL EVENT:

Friday, June 14

Talkback with the cast!

“Laughing, learning, sadness and understanding give way to wonder... a riveting experience.”

—Melanie Iversen
Greenbelt News Review

Call (301) 441-8770,
visit greenbeltartscenter.org,
or scan the QR code to
purchase tickets!

School News

International Day Highlights Middle School’s Many Cultures

by Lois Rosado

Greenbelt Middle School celebrated International Day on Wednesday, June 5, an event that was well attended by students and families. According to Joan Jackson, the community school coordinator, the purpose was to illuminate the many cultures and heritages represented at the school. This event took place in the school cafeteria, and it was filled with excited students and happy parents.

Carlos Pugh, the community liaison, indicated that he sent parents a survey to determine their interest in organizing an International Day event. The responses were overwhelmingly positive. Pugh coordinated the meetings between parents from similar countries, and working together they determined the menu of foods they would each bring.

There was food from the Philippines, Benin, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Jamaica, India, Italy, El Salvador and Nepal. Artifacts of Taiwan and Guatemala represented the cultural heritage of those countries.

Attending this event were Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmember Kristen Weaver, the latter happily sharing that she sampled a little of each of the food offerings.

There were dance performances by the students that brought rousing applause and enthusiasm. The joy and happiness were contagious, and everyone appeared to have a wonderful time at the International Day celebration.



A table of Jamaican food at GMS International Day



GMS International Day dance performance



Paola Morales and Louis Jimenez represent El Salvador.




Student Sautabhi (right) poses with her little brother, celebrating Nepalese culture.



Elise Stack helps at the Italian table.

- Photos by Lois Rosado



The Greenbelt Community Foundation is seeking additional board members.

Are you passionate about making a meaningful impact in your community? The Greenbelt Community Foundation is seeking dedicated individuals to join our Board of Directors and help drive our mission forward.

About Us:

The Greenbelt Community Foundation is committed to serve as a fund to support worthwhile projects in Greenbelt. Over the years, we have reinvested over \$250,000 in the Greenbelt Community. Our work is driven by a desire to promote community projects that build upon the ideals of collaboration, cooperation, and engagement through the generous participation of individuals and organizations.

Board Position Overview:

We are currently looking for new board members who are enthusiastic about our cause. As a board member, you will play a crucial role in guiding our organization's strategic direction, ensuring financial sustainability, and advancing our programs and initiatives.

Responsibilities:

- Attend regular board meetings (typically the third Thursday every month) and actively participate in discussions.
- Support fundraising efforts and advocate for our cause within your network.
- Serve as a liaison between the organization and external stakeholders.

Qualifications:

- Passion for our mission and a commitment to advancing our cause.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to collaborate effectively with a diverse team.
- Previous board experience (preferred but not required).

Why Join Us?

Joining our board offers a unique opportunity to make a tangible difference in the lives of the Greenbelt Community. You will work alongside dedicated community members and contribute to shaping the future of our organization.

Application Process:

To apply for a board position, please submit a letter describing your background and reasons for wanting to join the board to greenbeltcommunityfoundation@gmail.com

We welcome applications from individuals of all backgrounds and experiences.

For inquiries or more information, please contact greenbeltcommunityfoundation@gmail.com.

City Notes

Planning conducted a tour of proposed American Rescue Plan Act-funded Pedestrian/Bike Master Plan projects for councilmembers, city manager and Public Works.

In the Community Center’s Dance Studio Annex, contractors raised the HVAC unit to allow installation of a raised floor.

Recreation provided summer camp staff orientations for Creative Kids, Circus, Encore, Arts and Kinder Camps. Therapeutic Recreation (TR) provided orientation for inclusion staff and inclusion training for all camp staff groups, supported by CARES and the Police Crisis Intervention Team.

Arts held an Artful Afternoon of plein-air painting at Springhill Lake Recreation Center and a Youth Art Share. TR hosted a Sip-and-Paint Event and two trips to Annapolis for Active Aging participants.

Public Works and Park Rangers collaborated on an educational program on reptiles and amphibians. After one adoption, Animal Shelter residents are eight cats, six kittens and nine dogs.

The Museum’s Greenbelt Day open house welcomed 20 visitors.

CARES staff participated in the Police Department-sponsored Wellness Walk.

Find More Peace Through Meditation

Katrina Boverman, a longtime meditation instructor with the SAGE program, and the Mishkan Torah Synagogue Sisterhood have quietly offered Summer Guided Meditation classes to Greenbelters and others for the past nine years. Although the synagogue itself is a wonderful peaceful setting welcoming to all, meditation this year will be offered via Zoom to attend from the comfort of your own home.

Attendees have expressed quieting of their bodies, minds and spirits, a deepening of inner stillness and a better ability to reconnect with themselves. They have described feeling more peaceful, serene, relaxed, mindful and present, both during and in between the classes. Common experiences outside of the class for participants have been to have greater ease falling asleep and more patience during challenging times.

Classes began Monday, June 3 and are held every other Monday through August 26, from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. There is no charge; donations are welcome.

For more information email or call Katrinaboverman@yahoo.com or 301-641-1035.

Working Together To Stamp out Hunger

The summer is a time of high stress for food insecure families. Here is the schedule for June PORCH collections of nonperishables and hygiene products:

Saturday, June 15, by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road.

Sunday, June 16, by 4 p.m. for 9, 11, 12 and 13 Courts Ridge Road; for Boxwood Village and for PORCH at large members.

Monday, June 17 by 10:30 a.m. at the Leasing Office of Pinnacle Properties.

Sunday, June 30 by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

For more information, email Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

New Deal Film Explores Relationship Between Jewish Americans and Israel

by Donna Hoffmeister



Clip from the film Israelism

The documentary Israelism explores changing American Jewish attitudes toward Israel, influenced by Israel’s treatment of Palestinians. The film shows at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 17 at the New Deal Café and on Zoom.

The film’s two protagonists, Simone Zimmerman, co-founder of the U.S. Jewish group, IfNotNow, and Eitan, a Jew from Atlanta who joined the Israeli military, were raised to see Israel as synonymous with their Jewishness. Through school trips to Israel and lessons in Israeli culture at Jewish summer camps, both were taught at a young age to support Israel unconditionally. They first become critical of the Israeli government’s treatment of Palestinians when they visit the West Bank and Gaza. Erin Axelman, co-director of Israelism, said on Democracy Now (January 22, 2024) that the film was based on his own personal history as a young American Jew. He learned “an idealized and sanitized version of Israeli history” and then experienced a “rude awakening upon learning about the horrific oppression of the Palestinian people.”

Some critics view the film as a one-sided attack on Israel that misrepresents how most American Jews view Israel, while others say the film shows a significant divide as a growing number of American Jews align themselves against the occupation and with the Palestinian cause. The devastation in Gaza in Israel’s seven-month war against Hamas has widened this divide, according to a February 2024 opinion poll by the Pew Research Center. It found Jewish adults under 35 are divided over Israel’s military

response: 52 percent say the way Israel has carried out the war has been acceptable, while 42 percent call it unacceptable and six percent are unsure. Jews ages 50 and older are far more likely to say Israel’s conduct of the war has been acceptable (68 percent). The Pew findings suggest that attitudes toward the film Israelism may similarly be split along age lines.

Shelley Cohen Fudge, founder and steering committee member of the D.C. Metro Chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace, and Jamal Najjab, a Palestinian-American who worked as a journalist in Jerusalem in the early 1980s, will lead the discussion following the film. Many of Fudge’s extended family live in Israel, while many of Najjab’s family live in a small village in the West Bank. Their personal and professional experiences provide a unique perspective to the discussion on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Reel and Meal at the New Deal is a free monthly film series focused on environmental and social justice issues, presented by Utopia Film Festival and the Prince George’s County Peace and Justice Coalition. Online registration is required for virtual participants at tinyurl.com/ReelMealJune2024. For more information see the Reel and Meal Facebook page: facebook.com/reelandmealNDC.

Donna Hoffmeister is a member of the Peace and Justice Coalition that organizes the Reel and Meal events.



Obits cont'd from p.4

always to be Cliff’s home. Greenbelt was the city he loved deeply and never wanted to leave.

At the young age of 14, Cliff joined Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department under the junior associate program. Following in his father’s footsteps, Cliff attended St. Hugh’s School through his elementary years and then went on to graduate from Parkdale High School in 1971. Upon graduation, Cliff joined the U.S. Navy. After completing boot camp in Great Lakes, Ill., Cliff served on the USS Hancock CVA-19 where he was an aviation boatswain mate. He went to “A” school in Lakehurst, N.J., for training on catapult arresting gear. Cliff remembered his boot camp graduation ceremony extremely well as he and his fellow mates had to march outside to the drill hall in 24°-below temperatures without a jacket. Cliff served honorably for four years.

Upon being discharged, Cliff returned home to his beloved Greenbelt and began working at Greenbelt Homes, Inc., in the maintenance department. In 1978, he married his sweetheart, Sandy Fellers. They began their married life living in the apartments across from the Center. In 1980, he and Sandy decided they wanted to move into GHI. Then, in 1988, they moved into their present home in Boxwood.

After working at GHI, Cliff decided he wanted to join the ranks of the Power Plant Department with the University of Maryland. After 30 years of dedicated service, Cliff decided to retire so that he had more time with his family and more time with his love of bike riding, making leather projects and his music. His love of music included playing his guitar and mandolin which he mastered. As Cliff rode his bike around the area one never saw him without the conductor hat upon his head. He loved that hat almost as much as his biking and music.

Cliff and Sandy were mar-

ried for 45 years and had two children, Samantha and Leo. The children played a huge, loving role in Cliff’s life, as did his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Samantha is the mother of Ashley, Eric, Nicholas, Ivy and Amber. Leo is the father of four children, Macy, Levi, Lyla and Joy. Cliff was extremely proud to be a great-grandfather to Casper and Miles, Nicholas’ two boys. Family and his church meant everything to Cliff. Although he did not continue to follow his mother, dad and brother Barry’s footsteps in the fire department and auxiliary, he certainly had bragging rights to their 177 years of combined, dedicated service to the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department, an accomplishment very few in the department can boast about. Cliff was always so proud of his parents and brother Barry’s many years of unconditional, dedicated service.

Cliff is survived by his wife, Sandy; daughter, Samantha (Mark); son, Leo (Joy); brother, Barry; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The family requests that donations be made in Cliff’s memory to Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., 125 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.



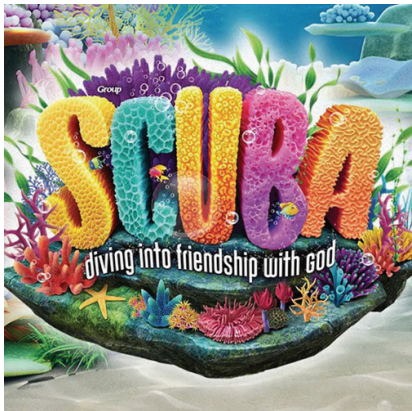


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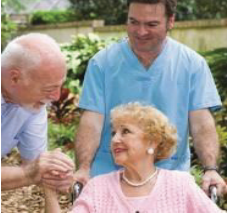
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Letters cont'd from p.2

formed a vendors’ search committee. Since then, the Co-op management very graciously met with potential vendors. We very much appreciated and shared the fact of their cooperation to members, and the vendors were favorably impressed by the accommodating reception they received. Updates regarding our progress were infrequent due to the slow process of identifying a potential vendor.

During New Deal quarterly membership meetings Co-op management provided updates, elaborated on the financial standing and answered members’ questions.

However, Café’s ongoing concerns about our lack of profitability and suggestions regarding changes to the menu and service were shared with the Co-op. Our board knew that efforts to achieve more income were being made, a particularly tough balancing act in light of rising operational costs. To help, the Café paid the rent. However, in the end, efforts did not lead to a sufficient increase in profitability.

John Campanile
The New Deal Café Board

Yes to JEDI

I applaud the vision and courage of Tyra Smith, Greenbelt’s first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) officer, to call for a comprehensive equity audit of Greenbelt using Tribesby Consulting and their justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI) approach and framework. Their Phase I review of city government structure and culture uncovered some uncomfortable findings, which we are wrestling with as a community.

As City Manager Josué Salmerón remarked recently at a council worksession discussing the Tribesby findings, “when you ask employees how they feel about the workplace, you have to be prepared to hear the truth. We asked them what their experiences were in the workplace. This is their truth. ... I am committed to making sure that, as we move forward, we do not repeat the practices and behaviors that have existed in our organization.”

Smith and Salmerón are clearly committed to working for a more just, equitable, diverse and inclusive city. They deserve our full support.

Robert Snyder is correct in his letter to the editor on June 6 that DEI efforts are facing challenges and rollbacks across the country. That doesn’t have to happen in Greenbelt, though the risk is there: downplay the findings and wait until people lose interest.

A common pushback refrain from those opposed to racial equity efforts is that any discussion of racial impact is racist. Apparently we can ignore centuries of systemic white advantage just by declaring that we should have been color-blind all along and we can start now. This misguided perspective ignores the legacy impact of centuries of racial injustice and exploitation by white people, which continues through the present. To address racism, we need to face it honestly, not by pretending it doesn’t exist.

The system of white oppression goes by many names: a system of white privilege, white supremacy culture, systemic racism and white default culture,

as Tribesby has used. We have an opportunity through this work to face who we are as a community and who we are not. There are many wonderful aspects of life in Greenbelt and the history of the town is rich and unique. However, racism is also part of our past and our present. Working to make sure it isn’t part of our future will require us to have courage and commitment. An important next step is participating with Tribesby’s Phase II efforts this summer to understand the JEDI experience of the community through surveys, feedback opportunities and forums.

Bob Rand

Co-op 40th Anniversary

The Greenbelt Co-op Grocery Store and Pharmacy had a fitting and delightful celebration on June 2 at the Roosevelt Center. I am thankful to have been a minor part of the team that set up our current Co-op. I joined to help save the store, but also because of my respect for the people who volunteered so much time and effort to this and other Greenbelt community endeavors. I very much admired the other members of the original Board of Directors – including Jim Cassels, Mike Burchick, Margaret Hogensen, Joe Timer, Richard Bates, Chuck Sarahan – and all those who offered time and money with their initial membership in this Co-op.

Others have followed who served with diligence on the boards throughout the years. Then there are the managers to thank – Bob Davis and now Dan Gillotte – as well as so many dedicated employees of the store, not just “employees,” but also friends. Thank you, all of you, for believing in the concept and the need and for continuing this legacy.

It is wonderful that the store is still here.

Wayne Williams

Novel Endings Open for Business

Novel Endings is the used book room within the Greenbelt Library. Sales of books and other media from this room support special programming and the Library.

Maintained by volunteers for the Friends of Greenbelt Library, Novel Endings receives donations of book discards from the library as well as donations from the community by special arrangements. To donate books, email friendsofgreenbeltlibrary@gmail.com. Cash and check donations are also accepted in the blue box next to the Library’s front desk.

Come see what Novel Endings has to offer and support the Greenbelt Library at the same time.

New Deal Café Holds Annual Meeting, Welcomes New Board

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Sunday, June 2, the New Deal Café held its annual membership meeting at which news of a continued vendor search and the financial outlook was shared. Board members were elected at the meeting and, from among those, officers were elected via a Zoom meeting the following evening.

Election

President Michael Hartman urged greater participation and spoke of the Café’s resilience in the face of financial challenges. Hartman became part of the Café in 2009 when he was elected to a then newly-formed audit committee. In 2010 he was selected to fill a vacancy on the board and in 2011 he became president. With the exception of a 15-month absence for medical reasons, he’s served as president ever since, re-elected by the board every two years. Hartman said he decided not to seek re-election to the Café board this year because there were others interested in serving. The two new board members are Alan Simpson, who previously served on the audit committee, and Lisa Milani, a Café member. “I’m excited for two new board members,” Hartman told the News Review, noting the Café has previously had difficulty recruiting new people to run for the board. Hartman will continue to play a leadership role at the Café as he was elected to the audit committee.

On Monday evening, John Campanile, who was previously secretary, was elected the next president. Brandon Cole was then elected secretary and Alan Parker treasurer. Jay Bellamy and Lisa Milani will also serve on the board. Rex Wingerter, along with Michael Hartman, will serve on the Audit Committee.

Finances

At the annual meeting, there was a suggestion to increase the 4 percent surcharge at the Café to 8 to 10 percent, but outgoing Treasurer Dorian Winterfeld cautioned against diminishing returns from such an increase and it was dropped. Some suggested a future vote on the surcharge rate and possible increase for next year’s budget.

Winterfeld reported successful fundraising and grants over recent years and noted the success of the Masquer-AID Ball in October.

Winterfeld reported a net profit of \$1,882 for the first quarter, due to donations and grants, but noted the need for a more sustainable model of income.

Currently the Café has \$59,795 in the bank and another \$25,000 grant was received just before the annual meeting. It has \$165,804 in debt, which includes a 30-year EIDL Covid loan of over \$107,000 and member loans of \$52,000.

Winterfeld read a statement from 23 years ago stating the future of the Café rests with its members and emphasized that it was as true today. Volunteers have been and always will be necessary, he said.

Vendor Negotiations

President Michael Hartman said that there are ongoing negotiations with a new vendor. The 4-percent surcharge is supporting the music program as well as operating costs for which the New Deal is responsible. The Café had a successful Masquer-AID Ball, raising over \$26,000, far exceeding its goal of \$10,000, and a Music Society grant is helping to buy performance equipment, Hartman reported.

Food and beverage vendor Dan Gillotte lauded the accomplishments of Café operations in a climate of industrywide cuts. Profitability has been up for five months and news of the Café’s search for a new vendor is concerning to the Co-op. Currently, sales take a dip after 9 p.m. and the possibility of closing during certain hours to save on expenses is being explored. Despite \$180,000 in losses since the Co-op’s July 2022 takeover of operations, they have seen \$12,000 in profit this year, reported Gillotte. However, the Co-op does not expect to recoup all their losses.

Winterfeld noted an increase in sales but also significant increases in expenses, including payroll. For more on the vendor negotiations see last week’s issue.

Music

Music Coordinator Liz Springer thanked those who helped her transition into her job. Of the

\$5,000 grant for new equipment, \$1,300 remains, she reported. Springer also cited the Café’s nominations for WAMMIE and City Paper recognitions and that such recognition attracts more bands to the Café.

Upcoming events for the Café include Pride Month, Jazz Festival, Labor Day and others, with the hope of establishing a cultural festival to celebrate diversity.

The New Deal Café says members and patrons can help by volunteering in several areas of need, including sound tech, supporting bands (especially those new to the Café), tipping generously and purchasing food and drinks there.

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Note the updated start time. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, on Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.



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FIREFIGHTERS continued from page 1

cover the city, said Ray, but one of the city’s neighboring stations, Berwyn Heights, is also slated to have its career staff pulled at the same time. Ray also noted that Greenbelt itself provides service to neighboring communities when they don’t have sufficient coverage; sometimes they go when several companies called ahead of them can’t respond. If career firefighters are pulled from Greenbelt and Berwyn Heights, the closest full-service station to Greenbelt would then be College Park.

Response Times

The current average fire and EMS call response time in Greenbelt is about four minutes. In a letter to Salmerón, on June 7, Prince George’s County Fire Chief Tiffany Green estimated response time will be within eight minutes starting next month. After speaking to Director of Recreation Greg Varda and Police Chief Richard Bowers, Salmerón thought response time could be “much longer than [eight minutes].”

At the worksession Ray noted that there’ll be a big impact on EMS transport services and stressed the importance of timely medical emergency care, in particular, early CPR and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for cardiac arrest survivability.

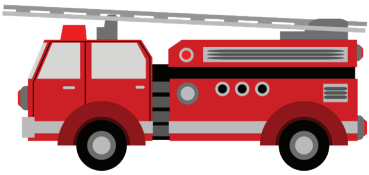
A Temporary Measure?

The decision to remove career fire and rescue personnel will be re-evaluated in October. Green wrote that the Fire/EMS Department faces a “critical shortage” that is “exacerbated” by scheduled summer vacation leave and unscheduled leave like sick callouts, injuries and family and medical leave.

Though ostensibly a summer staffing plan, Salmerón is concerned that there’s no date for the career staff to return. Instead, they’re going to re-evaluate the situation. “If it’s just a temporary measure, there’s no need for re-evaluation, just put everyone back where they came from,” says Salmerón. “Long-term, I don’t think anyone at the county thinks it’s a good strategy to leave Greenbelt understaffed with career personnel. I think the station’s too big. Currently it’s running 24 personnel. How do you go from 24 to none?” he asks. Yet he notes there’s a concerning history of the county pulling out of fire stations and leaving them to be staffed by volunteers.

In the worksession, Councilmember Jenni Pompei noted the trend of declining rates of local career firefighters and the closure of fire stations.

“Once [firefighters] get pulled, they don’t come back,” Ray said. Over recent years, three Prince George’s County fire stations



have been forced to close due to understaffing, he noted.

In 2013, four stations in Prince George’s County lost their career staff: Seat Pleasant, Branchville Station, Boulevard Heights and West Lanham Hills. Seat Pleasant, which was chartered in 1916, continued after 2013, staffed exclusively by volunteers, but staffing dwindled and it became inactive by 2021; in 2022 it was officially closed, replaced by a nearby station (Shady Glen). Though the station is not reported to have closed, calls to the Boulevard Heights station rang unanswered on Tuesday (June 11). Branchville and West Lanham Hills fire departments now rely exclusively on volunteers for their operations.

Bracing for the Change

On Tuesday, the City of Greenbelt and the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and the Berwyn Heights Fire Department met with county officials, including County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. Though Salmerón had hoped they might be able to get the county to change their minds, ultimately it was an informational meeting, he said. The expectation that volunteers will fill in the gaps is just not possible, Salmerón told the News Review. It’s his understanding that the fire departments were as much in the dark as the city was and that they were not consulted or given any more notice. Salmerón is hoping plans can be altered in the coming weeks but if not, come June 30 they’re going to lose 24 people from the fire department during the week. “That’s alarming,” admits Salmerón, who notes the city is preparing for summer sessions with large groups of children and

also has to be mindful of older residents in Central Greenbelt. However, he’s trying to see what can be done to prevent the city from being completely without career staff. The Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Berwyn Heights are holding coordinating meetings and Salmerón says he’s doing what he can. That includes looking to increase the number of defibrillators the city has available; currently there’s one per shift with the police department and they’re now looking to have at least two readily available. Salmerón has asked the county to provide any available AED but if they don’t receive one the city will find the money to purchase it.

On Tuesday Greenbelt leaders also requested two Advanced Life Support units be available to them, one stationed in Greenbelt and one in Beltsville, particularly during peak hours. Awaiting a response to that request, Salmerón stresses he’s doing what he can.

One good sign to Salmerón is that the county says they’ll look to make adjustments, even a week or two if adjustments need to be made, not wait for October.

Council’s Response

At last week’s worksession council objected to the news. “This is irresponsible and outrageous,” said Councilmember Silke Pope. “Eight minutes is a long response time if your house is on fire,” Pompei later told the News Review. “What the hell is the county thinking?” asked Mayor Emmett Jordan. “This is one of the most densely populated parts of Prince George’s County ... I don’t understand ... Our residents, they pay for the service. Is the county going to send each of the residents their fair share back from the money that we send to the county?”

Randy Chow is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism and an intern with the Greenbelt News Review.

POLICE continued from page 1

using ARPA funds for repairs to the headwall, culvert and storm drain pipes on Crescent Road near Greenhill Road was also approved unanimously. Both sides of the street are affected, Public Works Assistant Director Brian Kim explained, so repairs may take about two weeks, depending on the weather. The repairs are necessary because age and erosion have damaged the existing structure. The approved contract will be with Next Day Concrete for a total cost of \$33,800.

Much of the meeting was taken up with council’s concerns with two purchase requests by the Police Department. Chief Richard Bowers, with Deputy Chief Timothy White present on Zoom, proposed the purchase of police radios and license plate readers. Bowers stressed the “interoperability” of the new radios in aiding communications between the Greenbelt Police and other municipalities in the DMV area in a regional radio system established in 2009.

As Prince George’s County police are transitioning to the new technology of the proposed radios, Bowers stated the importance of Greenbelt’s adoption of the new, “smart” radios for the Greenbelt force to be compatible

with and effectively communicate with the county and other police agencies. Thirty radios are requested now but 40 more would be needed to equip all officers. City Manager Josué Salmerón stated he would investigate other sources of funding such as county, state or federal sources for the additional radios. Mayor Emmett Jordan asked about the lifespan of the new radios and the cost of the proposed maintenance contract. Bowers replied that the new radios are anticipated to have a life expectancy of 10-15 years and the maintenance contract would need to be renewed every year. Weaver expressed concern with the “significant cost” of the radios and associated subscription and maintenance costs. Bowers and White emphasized that the current radios are “obsolete” and this proposed purchase is a top priority for them. A motion to approve the purchase of the radios for a total cost of \$262,408.96 was approved unanimously.

Bowers and White then presented their request for a license plate reading camera system, to be purchased by ARPA funds designated by council for the purpose. The requested system

See **POLICE**, page 11



PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

Mama wood duck and her brood of ducklings take to the water of Greenbelt Lake.

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Incidents reported here occurred June 3-9, 2024. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department reported one death; one sexual assault; two mental health diversions, one involving overdose and the other involving attempted suicide; and one juvenile missing person case resolved. On June 3, a woman with dementia was safely located by the Anne Arundel County Police.

Carjacking

On June 8 at 10:59 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man working on his vehicle had it stolen at gunpoint by another man.

Robberies

On June 6 at 11:18 a.m. near 7601 Hanover Parkway, a young man exited the Metro bus, and three unknown men demanded his cellular device, wallet and headphones.

On June 6 at 1:31 p.m. near 7200 Mandan Road, four juveniles came from behind and surrounded a man and demanded his phone and wallet; one pulled a gun and struck the back of the man's head; one grabbed his wallet, and they fled.

On June 6 at 2:38 p.m. near 6038 Greenbelt Road, a man was servicing the ATM at a bank when two men demanded the money; one displayed a handgun, and they grabbed the cassette boxes full of currency from the ATM.

Assault

On June 4 at 2:11 p.m. near 7800 block Greenbrook Drive, a woman and her roommate got into a verbal argument and he dumped bleach on her. He was arrested for 1st degree assault.

On June 7 at 10:12 p.m. near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, a man was in a fight but refused to describe the other person, whom he knew. An EMT treated his wounds.

On June 8 at 7:53 p.m. near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, a man was slapped by a female he knew. A bystander separated them, and officers told him how to press charges.

Break-in

On June 3 at 7:49 a.m. near 6200 block Breezewood Drive, a Ring doorbell recorded a man picking the door lock, and a fire-arm was stolen from a lockbox.

Animal Complaint

On June 3 at 5:54 p.m. near 5 Gardenway, a dog jumped the fence and bit a woman walking by on the arm. The dog is up to date on all shots.

Fraud

On June 7 near 8000 Mandan Road, a man received a text message to confirm a bank transaction which he declined; he later discovered a large sum of money had been stolen from his bank account.

Theft

On June 3 at 10:28 a.m. near 9220 Springhill Lane, a bag was stolen from a laundry room.

On June 5 at 10:07 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two men stole several electronic items.

Delivered packages went missing on June 6 near 7828 Hanover Parkway, and June 7 near 5803 Cherrywood Terrace.

On June 7 at 2:18 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man left without paying for multiple items.

On June 7 at 2:38 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man pushed a cart laden with sheets,

blenders and another kitchen item out the front exit past all points of sale.

On June 9 at 4:53 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a thief went out the back of the store and fled in a vehicle; surveillance footage showed the suspect fleeing.

Trespassing

On June 4 at 12:18 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, Beltway Plaza security had a banned trespasser arrested. On June 8 at 3:18 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a woman was causing a disturbance; she had been banned and was arrested for trespassing on private property.

Vandalism

On June 9 at 3:04 a.m. near 7900 Good Luck Road, a man tried to enter a store but the front door was locked. He kicked the glass door causing the bottom half to shatter. He then fled the scene.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

On June 3 at 5:46 p.m. near 6936 Hanover Parkway, a silver 2014 Toyota Corolla (Md. 2EH6361) was left running during a delivery and when the driver came out it was gone.

On June 4 near 6102 Breezewood Court, a 2015 Kia Optima (Texas TMS2317), and near 7672 Mandan Road, a red 2015 Hyundai Sonata (Md. 8FL8784) were stolen.

On June 7 near 5323 Smiths Cove Lane, a vehicle was missing; it was not towed; the key fob is in hand; and no one had permission to borrow the vehicle.

Attempted Theft of Vehicles

On June 3 at 5:39 p.m. near 6998 Hanover Parkway, three men were seen breaking into a 2016 Hyundai Sonata, leaving window and ignition damage.

On June 5 near 9133 Edmonston Terrace, a 2023 Kia Forte had window and ignition damage.

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On June 4 at 10:55 a.m. near Greenbelt Road and Cherrywood Lane, a 2011 Hyundai Sonata occupied by five young men caused

a collision; they fled in different directions, and the vehicle was confirmed stolen and impounded.

On June 4 near Greenbelt Road and Hanover Parkway, officers found an abandoned vehicle that was stolen in Prince George's County.

On June 5 at 2:29 p.m. near 555 Crescent Road, a 2017 Ford F-250 was missing from Greenbelt Public Works. Video footage showed a man jumping the fence, gaining entry to the vehicle and driving off. Public Works located the vehicle in Groton, Conn., via GPS tracker, and the Police Department there found the vehicle and arrested the driver.

On June 5 near 9208 Springhill Lane, a stolen 2023 Hyundai Elantra was impounded with ignition damage and a small fire in the center console.

On June 5 near Breezewood Drive and Cherrywood Terrace, officers found a Hyundai with a broken window and damaged ignition/steering column; it was impounded.

On June 6 near 8100 Mandan Terrace, officers found a stolen 2015 Kia Optima from Howard County.

On June 6 near 6002 Springhill Drive, officers recovered a stolen 2011 Hyundai Elantra by GPS.

Theft from Auto

On June 3 near 6301 Ivy Lane, a tag was stolen.

Vehicle windows were broken and items stolen on June 4 near 9008 Breezewood Terrace, and June 7 near 7500 Hanover Parkway.

Recovered Stolen Tag

On June 8 at 2:30 p.m. near 9298 Edmonston Road, a woman saw her vehicle's stolen tag on another vehicle and called the police. The vehicle with the stolen tag was impounded and the stolen tag was returned.





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POLICE continued from page 10

includes 14 license plate readers (LPRs) and the associated infrastructure, installation, licensing costs and cost of transmittal of data to a state repository for a cost of \$174,498.70. Bowers explained that the LPRs are a "powerful tool" that would aid the police in the prevention, detection and investigation of crimes. Using optical character recognition, the LPRs would take a photo of the license plates of cars passing through an intersection in which an LPR is used. Bowers has identified 14 "key intersections" for the initial placement of the LPRs but the devices are moveable so could be relocated to another area. Only law enforcement agencies with a documented need to know a specific piece of information can seek permission to access the collected data in the state repository through a written request. Data will be stored at the state facility for one year, then purged.

White explained, in response to a question by Councilmember Silke Pope, that two portable LPRs are currently in use in Greenbelt and have proven successful, especially in locating stolen cars. Weaver requested a list of the intersections at which the LPRs will initially be placed. Jordan asked about the accuracy of the current LPRs and whether other local jurisdictions have utilized LPRs. White stated that the LPRs currently in use have been used for about 15 years and accuracy has improved. He emphasized, in response to Councilmember Danielle McKinney's question, that the LPRs are "a force multiplying tool" and that other local juris-

dictions such as College Park, Bowie and Riverdale Park utilize LPRs. To Jordan's further questions, he answered that the LPRs will be used only in public areas and will be mounted on existing infrastructure.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts opined that LPRs are "ineffective as a deterrent" and are a waste of tax dollars. He suggested that the police find a better way of protecting residents. Salmerón related the report of the Public Safety Advisory Committee in which the committee expressed its concerns about the use of LPRs, based on its review of a Supreme Court case in which LPRs played a role.

Resident Bob Rand expressed concern about the equity of the proposed placement of the LPRs. The LPRs may have a disproportionate impact on neighborhoods in which more people of color reside and in which population density is higher than in the center city. He requested equitable deployment of the LPRs and transparency in use of the data. Bowers responded that the intersections were chosen for use of the LPRs based on crime data analysis. Resident Bill Orleans agreed with Roberts and suggested Bowers hire more officers instead of using LPRs. Bowers responded that he strives for "efficiency and effectiveness" by using the LPRs. The purchase of the LPRs was approved by a 4 to 3 vote. Bowers promised to provide council with a map of the proposed sites for the LPRs in three to four weeks and to place an information sheet about them on the police website in two weeks.



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COUNCIL continued from page 1

special grants or funds that included six amendments to its March 25 estimates. The General Government budget did not change from its original \$5,108,600 nor did Planning-Community Development from \$1,393,100. Because of a \$60,000 increase in the Axon contract for city police on-body cameras, Public Safety rose by \$20,400 to \$12,233,200. Public Works decreased by \$11,000 to \$4,699,800 and Greenbelt CARES increased \$20,000 to \$1,922,400 to continue the Greenbelt Assistance in Living program's service coordinator program. Recreation and Parks rose to \$8,149,900 due to a \$76,000 increase in its recreation programs budget and Miscellaneous-Grants & Contributions increased \$2,000 to \$432,700. The Non-Departmental budget rose to \$1,537,300 because of a \$25,000 increase to \$75,000 for Greenbelt Cinema. Total Fund Transfers remained unchanged from its March 25 estimate of \$2,534,000. The budget for FY 2025 came, then, to \$38,016,000 after another \$5k was added for repairs to public art. Council also approved allocations totaling more than \$5 million made to ensure Greenbelt's fiscal health, which brought the grand total to \$43,812,700. One of those special funds will, for example, pay \$1,400,000 on the city's current \$8,850,372 debt.

After suspending the rule requiring a delay between 1st and 2nd readings, council voted to adopt the budget and then passed the ordinance appropriating those funds and levying taxes and other charges to pay for it. Estimated revenue includes \$23,569,100 from home and business property taxes, \$1,820,800 from personal property taxes, \$4,710,400 from other local taxes, \$2,259,400 from service charges, \$694,000 from fines and forfeitures, with the final estimate for all revenues being \$38,031,200. The additional funds are financed in a variety of ways.

Council broke into applause to celebrate its success. Jordan noted that the largest expense across the budget came from personnel expenditures and council's desire to treat city employees fairly. With \$22 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds ending this year, council succeeded in maintaining some of the positions that ARPA made possible, such as that in Greenbelt CARES. Salmerón received "heartfelt thanks" for his lead in creating the new budget, and he in turn acknowledged his staff while noting that together they had overcome an initial \$3 million deficit. City Treasurer Bertha Gaymon agreed that success required a group effort with council.

Next, council approved spending \$13,125 to extend the contract for Laserfiche, a document management system, for one year as city government transitions toward more integrated



Mary Johnson, Greenbelt's retired director of human resources, argues that the elimination of a position will cause an employee's termination.

The franchise fee remains at five percent and PEG (Public, Educational and Governmental) support at three percent of Comcast's and Verizon's gross revenues from charges collected in this area. Extension buildouts will make service available to new communities, and high-quality upgrades to PEG channels will ensure improved delivery. Annual PEG fees from Comcast and Verizon have decreased from \$174,000 to \$106,000 since 2019. President Frank Gervasi of GATe (Greenbelt Access Television, Inc.) explained that subscribers are switching increasingly from cable to internet streaming, a change he would have liked to see addressed more forthrightly in the renewal. Council also authorized that \$227,990 saved from funds allocated for asphalt paving be used prior to the end of FY 2024 to repair sidewalks largely but not entirely in the Greenspring community in Greenbelt East.

Opponents of Greenbelt FBI HQ Seek to Use Appropriations Riders

by Anna Bedford-Dillow and Pat Scully

A GOP-led House Appropriations Bill is the latest attempt to prevent the construction of the FBI Headquarters in Greenbelt. The proposed Fiscal Year 2025 general government spending bill rejects the \$3.5 billion proposal from the General Services Administration (GSA). Under the GSA Section (SEC. 548) of the bill, policy riders would prohibit the GSA from purchasing real property unless needed for a project authorized pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 3307 (congressional approval of proposed projects). The riders also prohibit previously provided funds from being spent on the FBI Headquarters building until the House Appropriations Committee receives a plan to continue operation of the current headquarters or to identify another existing, federally owned D.C. building to serve as the headquarters.

Congress has had overwhelming difficulty passing budget bills in recent years due to the tacked-

on riders on policy issues. Recent budget bill disagreements resulted in actual or threatened government shutdowns and numerous continuing resolutions. In this case, through a multiyear process, the FBI and GSA have concluded that it's not possible to make the FBI's J. Edgar Hoover Building operational and found no other federally owned location in D.C. will work, meaning there's little possibility of achieving what's asked in the riders.

Greenbelt City Manager Josué Salmerón is not putting too much weight in what's likely political posturing or negotiation tactics. On Tuesday, June 11, city officials were part of the regular multiagency monthly meeting about the FBI, which includes WMATA, different state agencies and the county. "The multiagency team, which includes Greenbelt, met today and we continue our work as if the project is moving forward," Salmerón told the News Review on Tuesday.

Beltway/B-W Parkway Ramps Will Close for Resurfacing

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (SHA) will begin a resurfacing project on I-95 at multiple locations starting June 10. The resurfacing work includes milling (removing the top layer of asphalt) and paving operations. The pavement improvement project should be complete in early July, weather permitting.

Beginning the week of Sunday, June 16, crews will begin resurfacing all the ramps at the I-95/I-495 (Capital Beltway)/ Baltimore-Washington Parkway interchange. Work will take place 8 p.m. to 5 a.m., Sundays through Thursdays, and will require total ramp closures and detours. Electronic message boards will be in place ahead of the upcoming work to alert drivers to road conditions ahead.

The following ramps will be affected: I-95 (Beltway) southbound to the Parkway westbound and eastbound, Beltway northbound to Parkway westbound, Parkway westbound to I-95 northbound and southbound, Parkway eastbound to I-95 southbound and MD 193 (Greenbelt Road) ramp to I-95/I-495.

According to a press release, SHA "understands that roadwork can be an inconvenience, but the work is necessary to ensure a safe and reliable highway network. Motorists are asked to slow down, be patient, allow extra travel time, stay alert and move over when approaching a work zone."

Customers who have questions may contact the District 3 Office at 301-513-7300 or toll-free at 1-800-749-0737.

Sports

Greenbelt Babe Ruth Teams Start Their Seasons with Wins

by Ian Gleason

Greenbelt Babe Ruth opened their season on Tuesday, June 4 with wins for both teams. The 15U squad opened the season with a commanding 15-3 win over the Marlboro Mustangs. CJ Fuller had a strong pitching start, with Arturo Pedroza closing the game out on the mound. In the second game of the doubleheader the 18U squad defeated Marlboro 3-0 with a quality pitching outing from Christian Moyer and a bases-clearing triple from Lincoln Beasley.

On Friday, June 7 the teams made a trip to Cosca Field in Clinton. The 15U team continued their winning ways with a 13-4 win over Marlboro highlighted by strong performances at the plate from Corey Schmick, Ishmail Khan and Sanjay Chelliah. Mason Keaton threw four strong innings on the mound, and Pedroza once

again closed things out in the final inning.

The 18U team lost a close game 6-4 to Full Count. Beasley threw a complete game with no earned runs for Greenbelt. Full Count was able to capitalize on a throwing error and a dropped fly ball from the Greenbelt defense. Gio Velasquez drove a triple to the fence and Michael Ceja had an RBI single to keep the game close but the defensive errors were too much to overcome.

This week, the 15U squad opened up with a 10-1 win over Laurel at Laurel High School on Monday, while the 18U squad makes the trip to Laurel on Wednesday evening. Friday both teams play the DC Knights at Taft Mosley Field in Washington, D.C., before returning next week with home games at Braden Field.

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Sports

ERHS Girls Softball: An Amazing Season That Took Them to State

by Adriana Simpson Gonzalez, Ashley Nteff and Jon Anthony Watson



ERHS catcher Micah Smith and (top right) softball season batter, Desiree Fuller



ERHS softball team members stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Photos by Alpha Jallow

The Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) softball team made history this season. They went undefeated during the regular season, winning regionals. The team ended their winning streak playing against Leonardtown High School in the State Championships on Saturday, May 25, with a final score of 14-0. Despite not winning, ERHS is proud of their winning record.

Student Takeaways

The team’s shortstop, Desiree Fuller, is a junior. Her role is to field between second and third base. After their undefeated regular season, Fuller said, “This softball team from Prince George’s County made it to state [championships], and we will be remembered in ERHS history for our perseverance ... no one can take away our legacy.” One loss certainly does not determine their skills and their energy.

Micah Smith, a junior, is the team’s catcher. In softball the catcher is positioned behind home plate with the intention of catching a runner out. Smith stated that, “They can see the entire field and tell people where to go.” When it comes to a big

game many strategies are used to help the team win. During regionals, Smith says he and his team “kept [their] heads up and believed ... This confidence is how [they] were able to go on to rally and win.” Unfortunately, the state championship game didn’t feel the same. Smith said “[he] could feel [his] team physically [tiring] and the energy shifting.” Nevertheless, Smith is grateful for the amazing season they had.

Proud Season, Future Dreams

In the end, ERHS may not have taken home a championship title, but their journey to state finals was thrilling with such an exceptional regular season result. ERHS delivered amazing plays, gave it their all, really showcasing the spirit of teamwork and competition, and their performance was a testament to their hard work and passions. As the season ends, the promise of future success shines through; they have proven they have what it takes to reach the top.

Adriana Simpson Gonzalez
Ashley Nteff and Jon Anthony Watson are Eleanor Roosevelt High School Students writing for the News Review.

ERHS Baseball Squad Finishes Third in Region for the Season

by Noah Tabor

The Eleanor Roosevelt Varsity Baseball squad has finished their 2023-24 season. With a record of 11-4, the Raiders placed third in the region. With such a spectacular season, and a deep playoff run last year, the expectations were high for the Raiders early on.

In May, Cannon Knight commented on how he was feeling about the Raiders’ season, saying, “The baseball season is going well so far. We are currently working with a 6-3 record with seven scheduled games left. To keep the momentum going into May, we need to stay focused and operate as a unit. Coming off of a big win on Monday, against Wise, our team showed that we can hang with any team that steps on the field with us. Heading into the game against Wise, my mindset was to stay focused and calm. Furthermore, as the starting catcher, I am the captain of the defense meaning that I have the responsibility of communicating to my pitcher and keeping everyone else on the same page. Following our 14-4 win against Wise, if we stay focused and keep playing the same way we are now, there is no doubt in my mind that we can go deep into the playoffs and bring a championship back to Raider Nation.”

The Raider Boys started off their season on the road at DuVal and Wise, losing a 10-9 nail-biter against Wise and beating DuVal 9-4. They caught a break with a home game against Northwestern where they won 11-5 with six players recording a run. Despite that strong showing, they faced a formidable opponent when they hit the road against Bowie. They outscored Bowie by eight runs in the first two innings but could not stop the Bulldogs, losing 15-9. But then, the Raider Boys pulled through and had their biggest games with a three-game winning streak at home against Suitland, High Point and Flowers, scoring more than 10 runs during that three-game stretch and holding all three teams to under seven runs.

In the Suitland game, everyone on the roster had a great game. On the batting side, senior Luis Arias scored two runs and stole two bases. Senior Xavier Jones scored four runs and stole five bases, while freshman Jacob Maitland scored four runs and



PHOTO BY ALPHA JALLOW

ERHS baseball's Cannon Knight gets ready to throw a pitch.

stole three bases, as well as junior Delton Fuller, who scored two runs and stole a base. But the biggest performance came from freshman pitcher John Burke, who allowed no earned runs or hits and struck out 13 over five innings.

When Roosevelt went against High Point, it was freshman Knight who had an amazing pitching day as he struck out nine batters in five innings and only gave up one earned run off three hits. Arias continued his hot streak from the last game with one run and four stolen bases. Senior Andrew Bender had a good game as well, as he had two runs and stole three bases.

In the final home stand, the Raiders took on DuVal and won 8-3, with senior Christian Moyer scoring two runs while going

two for two. Junior Bryce Durham was great as well, scoring a run and stealing two bases. This game was a good sign for things to come, as the Raiders were set to battle against DuVal on May 11 in the playoffs. The Raiders were firing on all cylinders as they beat DuVal 15-1. Arias and junior Sean Hamilton scored a combined five runs, Bender had a phenomenal game not allowing a single hit, and striking out seven batters.

It would all come down to the game against Charles H. Flowers in the Region Finals. Unfortunately, the Raiders fell just short in a 12-10 loss. Despite that, the Raiders had a great regular season.

Noah Tabor is an Eleanor Roosevelt High School Student writing for the News Review.

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Sports

Eleanor Roosevelt Step Teams Host Step Olympics Competition in April

by Ashley Nteff

This spring, Eleanor Roosevelt High School's (ERHS) step teams Dem Raider Boyz and The Lady Raiders hosted an amazing Step Olympics Saturday, April 20 in the school auditorium. They also gave the crowd an awesome intermission performance to represent their school. In this competition, teams including Lethal Ladies, Theta nu Sigma Steppaz with Attitude, Unity Queen Steppers, and many more were invited to compete and showcase their hard work for the cash prize of \$3,000.

The art of step involves choreographed movement routines where performers stomp, step and clap in unique sequences. Step is a form of expression significant in the African American Greek Letter Organizations (The Divine 9) and a way that performers can convey a message with spoken word or simply entertain an audience. There are a lot of key components to an ideal step routine. Cheikh Sow, a member of Dem Raider Boyz, said that: "The key components of a step routine are composed of strolls, steps and skits." In a step routine, movement is a major factor, and everything is precise and intentional.

When it comes to step competition, teams are typically judged based on technique and skill. Mark Mitchell, another member of Dem Raider Boyz, explained that: "Judges grade a step routine on theme, volume, precision, introduction, basically every parameter a performance can be

judged on." The scoring process can be intense, which is why repetition plays a huge role when teams practice for competitions/performances.

Making sure that a routine lives up to the standard is also important because it avoids disqualification. "A team would get disqualified for going over their allotted time slot. Going even a second over can result in a disqualification," Mitchell said. The rules and regulations are firm, which is why teams go above and beyond every performance to ensure consistency.

Every single team at the show gave it their all, but only one could win. As hosts, Dem Raider Boyz and The Lady Raiders were not in the running, and the team that brought it all to the stage and won the \$3,000 was the Lethal Ladies from the Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women.

Ashley Nteff is a writer for the ERHS Raider Review where this article first appeared.



Lethal Ladies, the winning step team from Baltimore, pose with their trophy at the tournament.

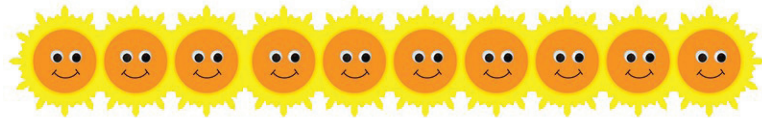


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ACE Student Awards Honor Greenbelt’s Outstanding Scholars

by Randy Chow



Back row from left: Mayor Emmett Jordan; Prince George’s County Board of Education Rep. Jonathan Briggs; Delegate Nicole Williams; County Councilmember Ingrid Watson; Delegate Anne Healey; City Councilmembers Silke Pope, Rodney Roberts, Jenni Pompei and Kristen Weaver; student Xavier Isangedighi. Middle row: student Quentin Vanburen, City Councilmember Amy Knesel. Front row from left: students Jasmine McKinney, Mariella McElhenny, I.B. Kamara, Daniella Onwe, Philip Orunmuyi, Ka’ron Miller, Nelly Tapia Gomez, Caiden Salter, Joslyn Bonilla, Juan Jose Alvarado and Maryland House of Delegates scholarship awardee Benjamin Nwosu.

Greenbelt’s Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) held its 29th Student Awards ceremony on Wednesday evening, May 22 at the Municipal Building. ACE, formed in 1994 with an updated charter in 2007, serves as a link between the community and the city council to promote high quality schools for Greenbelt. The ACE Student Awards acknowledge students who exhibit leadership, the city’s traditions of citizenship and academic achievement. The Student Awards complement the Educator Awards to recognize the efforts of teachers and staff at Greenbelt’s schools, which ACE presented in March (see the March 21 issue).

Students received a \$25 Amazon gift card with their honors on Wednesday. The two graduating seniors from Eleanor Roosevelt High School were also given a \$2,500 college scholarship.

“The City of Greenbelt, we are passionate about our schools,” Mayor Emmett Jordan said. “Each year, the City Council makes it a point to recognize outstanding students and educators. It’s always a pleasure to do this every year.”

Two students from Springhill Lake Elementary, Greenbelt Elementary, Magnolia Elementary, Dora Kennedy French Immersion, Greenbelt Middle and Eleanor Roosevelt High schools were honored in a roomful of about 60 principals, councilmembers, parents and students.

Springhill Lake Elementary

Nelly Tapia Gomez is a model of good character, academic responsibility and outstanding citizenship. Gomez is an honor roll student and, beyond being kind and responsible, helped students who are learning English as a second language.

Quentin Vanburen is a kind and hard-working student. Vanburen has performed in his school’s drama club for the last two years. His performances in “The Big Bad Musical” and “The Lion

King Jr.” earned Vanburen standing ovations.

Greenbelt Elementary

Jasmine McKinney has been a consistent supporter of her classmates, school staff and visitors. These visitors include county-level staff and Jordan. During Career Day, McKinney eagerly helped guide visitors to their destinations.

Ka’ron Miller is a role model who exemplifies how to lead through kindness and without judgment. Miller assisted in organizing canned goods for people in need, Christmas present donations and displaying children’s artwork in an anti-bullying campaign.

Magnolia Elementary

Joslyn Bonilla demonstrates excellent social skills after overcoming anxiety from transferring from Greenbelt Elementary. She’s a friend and leader to classmates while being an excellent student. She’s made honor roll every quarter this school year.

Juan Jose Alvarado’s leadership, maturity and responsibility earned him a unanimous selection to being a safety patrol. Alvarado prides himself in ensuring that younger students arrive and are dismissed from school safely.

Dora Kennedy French Immersion

Mariella McElhenny is ambitious and a vibrant student. Her attitude is reflected in her extracurricular involvement as she is a part of clubs and organizations. She’s a member of the National Junior Honor Society, the Student Government Association and her school’s band.

“Thank you to my teachers at school,” McElhenny said. “I’d also like to thank my friends who believed in me, and my parents who give me the opportunity to succeed.”

Caiden Salter shows unwavering dedication to his studies and extracurriculars. Salter is on his school’s basketball team and plays the trumpet for Dora Ken-

nedy’s Concert Band. He’s made honor roll for nine consecutive years.

Greenbelt Middle

Daniella Onwe models self-discipline and maturity. She’s earned A’s in every course. Moreover, Onwe reaches out to classmates to help them in their studies. An ESOL student who struggled with an assignment was able to complete it after Onwe lent her assistance.

Philip Orunmuyi has a strong focus, mature perspective and incredible talent as a writer. His classwork proves he is capable of critically thinking and communicating through writing. Orunmuyi captivated his classmates whenever it was time to read his work.

Eleanor Roosevelt High

I.B. Kamara is the assistant secretary of the National Honor Society and treasurer of the UNICEF club. He’s completed internships and community outreach efforts, like the coordinator for the Sycamore Club’s morning cleanup crew. Kamara has a cumulative GPA of 4.42.

Xavier Isangedighi engages his community as vice president of the Korean Club and assists his peers in a program called Peer Forward, a program designed to help first-generation youth. Isangedighi helps these peers with FAFSA applications and college essays.

Randy Chow is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism and an intern with the Greenbelt News Review.

Join Greenbelt’s Advisory Committee on Education

ACE is appealing for additional residents who are willing to serve. Any Greenbelt resident is welcome to attend the committee’s open monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Come join in and/or volunteer as a member to keep Greenbelt’s schools strong. For more, see the call on page 5 of the June 6 issue.

GCC Family Day

Greenbelt Community Church Family Day featured music, games, a firetruck and perfect weather. More than 50 people showed up to enjoy the afternoon on the lawn on Sunday, June 9.



Greenbelt Community Church’s rock and soul band, The Relics, sing oldies in the shade.




Greenbelt Fire Department opens up Engine 35 for tours.



Jim Miers (orange shirt) encourages kids to try stomp rockets on the church lawn.

- Photos by Amy Hansen

Community Helper



Xochitl Zamora-Thompson works on invasive species removal, volunteering with the City of Greenbelt. This is the little patch of woods between Ridge Road and Lakeside Drive. She’d love help from anyone else interested in invasive removal. She can be contacted at Zamorath@gmail.com.

PHOTO BY JULIA SNYDER